Live Stock and Dairy

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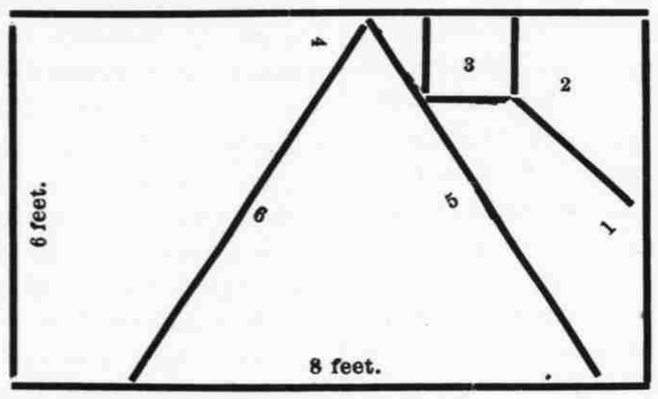
Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully answered.

Another Good Cow Stall Described.

Messrs. Editors: An excellent and very convenient stall for keeping and milking a cow in may be easily and cheaply constructed, with or without a purpose to have the cow remain in it all the time.

Supposing that the wall or side of the building shall constitute the rear end of the stall, the sides should be of inch plank 8 feet long, any width, nailed on 6 inches apart to corner posts, the top of the upper one being about 5 x 6 inches from the ground or floor. The corner posts at front should be 4 x 4 inches fastened to the ground or floor six feet apart, reaching to and fastened to the ceiling above. At the front set up a post 4 x 4 inches 6 feet high. At the bottom securely nail a 1 x 10 inch plank to each corner post, and to this 6 feet post so that its left side—viewed from the front—shall be just 2 feet, 6 inches from the right side of the right hand corner post. Nail plank on front of two right hand posts, up say 4 feet, unless cow is inclined to jump higher, and leave a 1 inch space on the short post for door to shut against. This door space left is found to be 3 feet wide and may be a slat button door 3 feet 2 inches wide and 4 feet long, hung with strap hinges to left hand post, opening outward and 1 inch above the 10 inch board at the bottom, but shutting 1 inch on each post at the sides. A feed box of inch plank, inside measure, 2 feet long 6 inches deep in front and 10 inches at back, nailed to right hand side of stall with its end 2 feet from the front and its front top 2 feet from the floor with two little posts extending from its ends to the floor. Nail boards from outside corner of trough across to the right hand door post, forming a manger for hay. Mortise a hole 2 x 6 inches through a plank on right hand of stall about 3 feet above the floor and 6 inches from left end of feed box. Prepare a strong, smooth pole about 8 feet long and 4 inches in diameter so its largest end will go through the mortise hole about 3 inches, and through a small hole in the end of this tenon drive a pin, so the tenan end of the pole will work in the mortise very easily and yet not pull out. Have the other end of the pole run through a 6 inch space left, about 3 feet up from the floor when the left hand siding is nailed on the stall. To that end, of what we may call the lever pole, fasten a small rope and shove the end of the pole back to the left hand back corner of the stall, when it will be angling across the stall to and through the mortised hole. When ready for milking, the feed being in the box the milker will pull gently on the rope so as to aid the cow with the pole to turn her right side and rear end up close to the open door of the stall while she continues to eat her feed, then to hold the lever pole in this position fasten the rope securely at the left hand corner post. The cow is now fastened in a position where it is very convenient to wash her teats, rub them dry and milk her quickly while she is so close to the door opening that it is not necessary to step inside or to set the milking stool outside the door. If she is a good cow, treated quietly and kindly with such words as "Come Pet, come Pet," when the pole is pulled she will soon learn to turn round close to the door and remain there to be milked without drawing up the pole. Then there is never any more trouble with that cow. Loud talk, and especially cross words and abusiveness should never be tolerated with cows and particularly at their stalls where they give down their milk. Such talk and conduct may do in a bar-room where people use whiskey and beer, but is entirely out of place and ill-mannered in a cow barn where milch cows gently give down their milk for people's use.

The rude diagram below will give a full idea of the stall:



Stall 6x8 feet.

1. Door 3 feet, extending from end of hay bin to lower end of stall.
2. Hay bin.
3. Feed box.
4. Mortised hole.
5. Lines shows lever pole in use.
6. Line shows lever pole, not in use.

I have now a cow kept in such a stall that is so gentle and nice that she always turns and takes her position at the door as soon as the milker puts in the feed for her. I have her in such a stall, and milked while eating, for two reason:

1. So that she will stand nicely to be kindly milked, and
2. So that she will have feed put in to her morning and evening.

Cows that give milk, butter and cheese for the family are certainly worthy of being well fed every day, winter and summer.

SAM. ARCHER.

Iredell Co., N. C.

Sheep Feeding in Nebraska.

In a recent experiment, ten lots of lambs were fed. Alfalfa and sorghum hay were used as roughness, four lots being fed on sorghum and six lots on alfalfa hay. Three lots had a shed with protected yard attached, while seven lots had open yards with slight protection from a low shed some twenty-five feet to the north.

The lambs with shelter weighed an average of about 56 pounds each at the beginning of the experiment, while those in the open yards were slightly larger, weighing 61 pounds average.

Of the six lots on alfalfa, three were under shelter and three were in open yards, each lot under shelter being duplicated by a lot in the open yard.

Three different grain rations were fed to the lambs on alfalfa. Lots 1 and 4 received alfalfa and corn. Lots 2 and 5 received alfalfa and a grain ration of three-fourths corn and one-fourth oats. Lots 3 and 6 received alfalfa and a grain ration of three-fourths corn and one-fourth bran.

Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, were fed sorghum hay and the following grain rations: Lot 7 received sorghum hay and corn. Lot 8 received sorghum hay and three-fourths corn with one-fourth oats. Lot 9 received sorghum hay and three-fourths corn with one-fourth bran. Lot 10 received sorghum hay and five-sixths corn with one-sixth oil meal.

The three lots under helter on alfalfa and a grain ration made an average gain of 34.3 pounds in 98 days.

The three lots under shelter on alfalfa and a grain ration made an average gain of 33.2 pounds in 98 days.

The three lots in open yards on sorghum hay and grain rations containing corn, oats and bran, made an average gain of 20.7 pounds in 98 days.

The one lot in open yard on sorghum hay and corn with one-sixth oil meal gained 26.7 pounds in 98 days.

The six lots on alfalfa and grain made an average profit of $0.72 per head.

The three lots on sorghum hay, corn, oats and bran made an average profit of $0.31 per head.

The one lot on sorghum hay and five-sixths corn with one-sixth oil meal made an average gain of $0.38 per head.

The season was favorable for grains, but the price of $5.00 per 100 at which the lambs sold made the profit small.

E. A. BURNETT.

Nebraska Experiment Station.

More Breeding and Feeding Information Wanted.

Mesrs. Editors: How much there is to learn about stock raising! The art of breeding an animal properly is a rare gift. Only the few can do this. Once the animal is produced, the next question is proper feeding and care. This is easy. Anybody can feed a pig. Yes, anybody can pour corn into the pig's trough. But is this feeding the pig? I have learned several things about the proper feeding of pigs, and this makes me keen to learn more. I have fifty young pigs and forty-seven of them are the best lot I have ever had. But what is the trouble with the three? Well, the hair does not look oily and the eye is not keen and dancing.

But it is something to feed fifty pigs two months and keep all but three of them keen and eager.

It seems to me there are three qustion that confront Berkshire breeders:

1. How to breed the pig?
2. How to keep him well and keep for the fray?
3. How to get the most pounds in the shortest time at the lowest cost?

I should be glad if the old breeders would tell us how they bred the best pig they ever raised.

I should be more grateful if the best herdsman in the State would tell us how he cares for his Berkshires.

I should be most grateful if the best feeder in the State would tell us how to get the weight in our hogs.

Now is the time when we are all feeding hogs. I am satisfied that much feeding is done unprofitably.

H. H. WILLIAMS.

Chapel Hill, N. C.

Age for Mating Swine.

Subscribers in Norfolk, Va., and Greensboro, N. C., ask at what age a boar should begin to be used in service to obtain best results, and at what age should a sow be bred for best individual good of the sow and for the best and largest pigs.

If you want to get the largest size possible in your boar and sow individually do not use them till well on to maturity, or at least till they are a year old. This gives you a chance to get a large growth on either before being put to breeding and will in the case of the sow make her about sixteen months of age before she farrows. If well fed and properly cared for she should be a sow of 450 to 550 pounds and should farrow a litter of very strong pigs and of good size. The boar might, to be sure that he was a prompt server, be used to a sow or two as early as six to eight months, as sometimes when a boar is well fed and pushed to get a large growth and has never had a sow till a year old he will refuse to serve at first, and you might think him a failure. Patience is generally needed in commencing to use a young boar. After once used he is generally all right and if so the older, up to a year, before giving him much service the better. You will, however, find that either the sow or boar will produce a better litter the second time than the first, and if the sow proves a good breeder and suckler I would recommend the raising of two litters a year from her till she is too old to produce well. In our own business we are great believers in old breeding animals, and sometimes keep them till ten to twelve years old.—Breeder's Gazette.

The Christian who enjoys ten thousand blessings from to-day, and yet feels no special gratitude for them, would do well to examine his heart most closely in order to see whether he is really in the faith or not.—Wesleyan Advocate.